

particularly on the impact on women and on how long-term, low-dose exposure to environmental pollutants impacts children at critical stages of development.

A few years ago, I participated in a study conducted by the Environmental Working Group to find out what toxic substances I, in particular, and Americans in general, have been exposed to throughout our lives. My stunning test results showed literally hundreds of chemicals pumping through my vital organs every day. These chemicals include PCBs that were banned decades ago, as well as chemicals like Teflon that are currently under federal investigation.

The study also tested ten newborn babies and found that on average, each one had some 200 chemicals in their blood at the time of birth. The fact that we have children coming into this world already polluted and at the same time, do not know what the effects of that pollution will be on their mental and physical development, is both bad policy and immoral. We must test chemicals before they go onto the market, not after they get into our bloodstreams.

For several years, I have called on Congress to enact legislation that would allow NIH to expand its research on the impact of these chemical pollutants on the health of women and children.

Once again, I am introducing two important bills that I hope will advance this research—the Environmental Hormone Disruption Act and the Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act. The Environmental Hormone Disruption Act authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIEHS, to conduct a comprehensive program to research and educate the public on the health effects of hormone-disrupting chemicals. The Women's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Act authorizes the NIEHS to establish multidisciplinary research centers to investigate how environmental factors may be related to women's health and disease prevention.

Increased investments in research now could prevent and treat a broad range of diseases and disorders in future generations. I urge my colleagues to support these bills today.

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MARSHAL J.C. RAFFETY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of the pending retirement of Marshal J.C. Raffety from not only his position as United States Marshal for the Northern District of West Virginia, but from an exceptional career in law enforcement that spans the past five decades.

Specifically, on January 1, 2010, after nearly eight years of service as U.S. Marshal, J.C. will graciously relinquish his duties and begin his life anew as a private citizen of the State of West Virginia. Raffety will leave this post with an outstanding legacy of achievement. During his tenure, Marshal Raffety supported the establishment of the Northern District's Mountain State Fugitive Task Force, which has components located in Clarksburg, Mar-

tinsburg, and Wheeling, West Virginia. This Task Force, comprised of local, State and Federal law enforcement agencies, is responsible for the apprehension of violent fugitive offenders. In addition, this Task Force participates in Operation FALCON, Federal And Local Cops Organized Nationally, an annual, nationwide fugitive round-up that relies on the combined efforts of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and departments. Under Raffety's capable leadership, the Northern District of West Virginia's efforts involving Operation FALCON netted the arrests of hundreds of fugitives from justice, and stands today as a shining example of effective inter-agency cooperation and coordination. Additionally, very early into his appointment, Marshal Raffety was selected to serve on the then-USMS Director's Advisory Committee, a testament to his decades of training and experience in the Federal, State, and local law enforcement communities.

President George W. Bush appointed Raffety to the position of U.S. Marshal on March 13, 2002. Prior to that, J.C. served as the Chief of Police for the city of Buckhannon, West Virginia, for approximately two years. During his tenure, Chief Raffety promoted the established concept of community policing and instituted meaningful administrative reforms. Additionally, he strengthened ties with the students and administrators of West Virginia Wesleyan College and enhanced the Neighborhood Watch Program in Buckhannon.

Before his service as Chief of Police in Buckhannon, Raffety spent a remarkable 32-year career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, which began in 1966 when, following high school graduation at the age of 18, he relocated to Washington, DC, and began working for the FBI as a GS-2 Clerk. While employed at the FBI, J.C. attended night school full-time towards the attainment of his college degree. After a 2-year break in service to complete his undergraduate education, Raffety was reinstated to the FBI in 1970, and attended the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia. Early in his career, J.C. served as an FBI Special Agent in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Erie, Pennsylvania, where his investigative efforts focused on organized crime, racketeering, and public corruption. He later served as a Supervisory Special Agent at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC, assigned to the Criminal Investigative Division, Organized Crime Section. Subsequently, in 1983, Raffety was assigned to the Clarksburg, West Virginia Resident Agency, and later served as Supervisory Senior Resident Agent for that office, a position he held until his retirement in 2000. Among the highlights of his impressive record in West Virginia, J.C. served as the lead case agent in the 1995–1997 West Virginia Mountaineer Militia investigation, which resulted in the convictions of militia members engaged in a domestic terrorism plot targeting the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services, CJIS, Center in Clarksburg, as well as the Internal Revenue Service, IRS, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, BATF, facilities in West Virginia's eastern panhandle.

I am pleased to have had this opportunity to call to the attention of my colleagues the extraordinary accomplishments of J.C. Raffety. I admire his idealism and lifelong commitment to his community, State, and country. I join his wife, Cindy, his two children and two grand-

children, and the grateful citizens of West Virginia in thanking J.C. for his life of service, and in wishing him continued success as he enters this new chapter of his life. Congratulations, Marshal Raffety, on a job well done!

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A TRIBUTE TO MRS. SAJDA
MUSAWWIR LADNER

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HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS-

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sajda Musawwir Ladner, an artist, community activist and educator.

She is one of the founders as well as the Artistic/Executive Director of Universal Temple of the Arts (UTA). UTA is a non-profit, community based organization focusing on creative development, education, multicultural and entrepreneurial programs, that has served Staten Island since the late 1960's. These programs are held both on and off site and include classes in the New York City Department of Education system.

She has worked intensively with young people as a Cultural Enrichment Specialist with organizations such as the YMCA, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Youth Employment Program, Neighborhood Youth Corp, and the Board of Education. Presently, Mrs. Ladner is on the staff of Doing Art Together at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Staten Island Museum as an Art Educator.

Sajda Musawwir Ladner is a Fashion/costume designer and owner of Saadia Fine Art Fashions. She has created costumes for many dance companies including Alvin Ailey II, the Fred Benjamin Dance Company, Eleo Pomare Dance Company, The Mary Anthony Dance Theater and the Nanette Bearden Contemporary Dance Theatre where she was resident costume designer and wardrobe mistress.

Mrs. Ladner is a professional dancer having had the honor of being asked to perform for President Nelson Mandela of South Africa when he visited New York shortly after his release from prison. She specializes in Jazz Improvisation and has worked with Barrie Harris, Reggie Workman and the Sun Ra Arkestra. Mrs. Ladner is a member of the On the Rock DanceTheatre based on Staten Island.

Mrs. Ladner serves on the Board of Directors of the Northfield Development Corporation and the Children's Harbor Montessori School. She is a member of the National Council of Negro Women, the NAACP and Staten Island Peach Action.

Mrs. Ladner has an administrative background in business and law. She represented Staten Island at the 13th Annual Harlem Mother's Day Parade. The parade honors mothers who work in the community. She has been the recipient of many awards for community service. Sajda Musawwir Ladner is the wife of Edward Ladner and mother of five daughters.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Sajda Musawwir Ladner.